



3738
HRT-0293-3103

Docket No. HRT-0293-3103

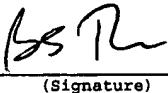
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Stevens et al.
Serial No. : 10/099,690 Art Unit : 3738
Filed : March 15, 2002 Examiner : D. Isabella
Title : Method and Apparatus for Thoracoscopic Intracardiac Procedures

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

May 20, 2003
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Brian S. Tomko
(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)



(Signature)

May 20, 2003
(Date of Signature)

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GROUP 3700

COMMUNICATION

Dear Sir:

Further to the Response filed on May 16, 2003, and in response to the Office Action mailed on December 18, 2002, the time for responding having been extended by petition, Applicants wish to communicate that the assignee of this application does not own U.S. Patent No. 6,161,543 (Cox), the patent cited by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action mailed on December 18, 2002, in support of the Examiner's obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 38-45.

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Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned if a discussion of the issues would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Brian S. Tomko
Reg. No. 41,349

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-1239
Dated: May 20, 2003